

STUDIES IN THE HELIANTHEAE (ASTERACEAE). IV.

A NEW SPECIES OF SCHISTOCARPHA FROM PANAMA

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The genus Schistocarpha contains about a dozen species in Central America and western South America with the greatest concentration of species in Guatemala and southern Mexico. One new species has recently been described from Guatemala (Robinson, 1974). Two or three species occur in the countries on each side of Panama but until now only the common widespread S. oppositifolia (Kuntze) Rydb. has been found in the isthmus.

A recent collection by Dr. Thomas B. Croat taken in western Panama proves to represent a thoroughly distinct and previously undescribed species. This new species is particularly unique in the numerous rays in about 3 series all bearing small but distinct laminae. Only the common S. oppositifolia has similar large numbers of female flowers but the latter species has the rays tubular, has much broader leaves, has more scarious and unequal involucral bracts and has less laciniate paleae. The new species is named here after the collector.

Schistocarpha croatii H. Robinson, sp. nov.

Plantae suffrutescentes erectae 1-2 m altae? pauce ramosae. Caules rubescentes teretes striati parce breviter pilosi. Folia opposita, petiolis 1.5-4.0 cm longis; laminae ovatae 6-10 cm longae 2.5-5.0 cm latae base cuneatae in petiolis superioribus sensim anguste decurrentes prope basin trinervatae margine multo argute serratae apice breviter anguste acuminatae supra et subtus sparsim breviter pilosae, nervis subtus aliquantum dense pilosis. Inflorescentiae laxe paniculatae, pedicellis ca. 1 cm longis dense puberulis non glanduliferis. Capitula ca. 7-8 mm alta et 7-8 mm lata. Squamae involucri ca. 20-22 inaequilongae ca. 4-seriatae 3-5 mm longae et 1.0-1.5 mm latae fulvae oblongae vel late oblongae apice rotundatae margine minute puberulae non scariosae extiores extus sparsim pilosae. Paleae lanceolatae plerumque profunde bi-tri-laciatae pallidae margine subscariosae. Corollae flavae; corollae radii ca. 40-60 bi-tri-seriatae, tubis perangustatis 2.5 mm longis dense hispidulis, limbis oblongis ca. 2.5 mm longis et 0.5 mm latis apice profunde bi-trilobatis; corollae disci ca. 30-40 ca. 4.5 mm longae, tubis distinctis angustatis ca. 1.5 mm longis dense hispidulis, limbis anguste infundibularibus subglabris inferne pauce hispidulis, lobis triangularibus ca. 0.6 mm longis et 0.5 mm latis extus submarginaliter multo breviter setiferis; thecae antherarum

ca. 1.2 mm longae, appendicibus ca. 250 μ longis anguste ovatis; achaenia ca. 1.1 mm longa late obovata glabra vix costata; carpopodia valde asymmetrica minuta; setae pappi ca. 30 facile deciduae plerumque 3.5 mm longae. Grana pollinis ca. 25 μ diam.

Type: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Las Nubes near Cerro Punta, ca. 2000 m elev. T.B.Croat 26411 (Holotype, MO).

Literature Cited

- Robinson, H. 1974. Studies in the Heliantheae (Asteraceae). III. A new species of Schistocarpha. Phytologia 29 (3): 247-250.



Schistocarpha croatii H. Robinson, Holotype, United States National Herbarium. Photos by Victor E. Krantz, Staff Photographer, National Museum of Natural History



Schistocarpha croatii H. Robinson, enlargement of head.